Tragedy wake-up call for gov't, say senators

THE TRAGEDY THAT MARRED THE ANNIVERSARY of the noontime show "Wowowee" on Saturday was a wake-up call for the government to institute reforms that would drastically reduce the country's grinding poverty, senators said yesterday.

Their counterparts in the House of Representatives said the stampede at the PhilSports Arena in Pasig City was a "symptom of a wider

TRAGEDY/A10

email: feedback@inquirer.com.ph

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

Monday, February 6, 2006 ★★★ 7 sections / Vol. 21 / No. 60 P18 website: www.inq7.net

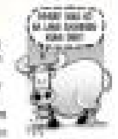
Opposition leader bugging Palace, Gonzales says

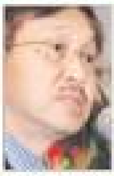
By Christine O. Avendaño

MALACAÑANG IS BEING bugged, apparently by an opposition leader, says National Security Adviser Norberto Gonzales.

Gonzales told reporters

OPPOSITION/A10

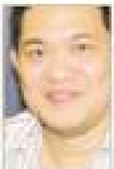




NERI: Back to Neda from DBM.



PUNO: Replaces Reyes at DILG.



ANDAYA: Replaces Neri at DBM.

Puno takes over DILG; Andaya to DBM

By Christine O. Avendaño

AS EXPECTED, CONTROVERSIAL ANTIPOLO Rep. Ronaldo Puno, a known political operator behind President Macapagal-Arroyo's campaign in the 2004 presidential election, has been appointed interior secretary.

He replaces Angelo Reyes, who was moved to the Department of Environment and Natural Resources.

As early as November last year, Malacañang floated the idea that Puno, president of Ms Arroyo's party Kabalikat ng Malayang Pilipino (Kampi), would be appointed to the top post in the Department of the Interior and Local Government.

Another staunch ally of Ms Arroyo in the House of Representatives, where an impeachment case is expected to be filed against her this year, is joining the Cabinet.

Camarines Sur Rep. Rolando Andaya, chair of the House appropriations committee the past six years, is taking the place of Romulo Neri at the Department of Budget and Management.

Neri is returning to his old job as director general of the National Economic and Development Authority.

The latest Cabinet appointments were announced yesterday by Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye.

Asked whether the announcement of Cabinet appointees was the last, Bunye said in a

PUNO/A6

Probers find lapses in security setup

Someone will answer for 74 deaths –Gonzalez

By Leila B. Salaverria and Luige A. del Puerto

JUSTICE SECRETARY Raul Gonzalez said yesterday someone should answer for the deaths of 74 people in a game show stampede, and the head of an inquiry panel said he found "shortcomings" in the security preparations for the event.

"There will be responsibility. There will definitely be people responsible," Gonzalez said in a phone interview. "That's why the order of the President is to find criminal or civil liabilities."

Gonzalez, however, refused to pinpoint any specific person or organization that might be culpable for the disastrous stampede last Saturday outside the PhilSports Arena (formerly Ultra) in Pasig City. About 500 people were injured in crush of fans struggling to get in to watch the anniversary celebration of the popular ABS-CBN game show "Wowowee."

"If I will say something, it will prejudge the outcome of the in-

PROBERS/A19



NO BARS strong enough for people desperately seeking better lives, Interior Undersecretary Marius Corpus, head of the fact-finding team looking into Saturday's PhilSports Arena stampede, finds out during an on-site inspection.

Encyclical reexamines role of state and Church

By Amando Doronila

ANALYSIS

THE JAN. 29 PASTORAL STATEment of the Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines came close on the heels of the first encyclical of Pope Benedict XVI that the Vatican released on Jan. 25.

The encyclical, titled "Deus Caritas Est" (God is Love), was signed by Benedict on Dec. 25, 2005. Addressed to bishops and the more than one billion lay members of the Catholic Church, it sets out the Church's policy on doctrinal matters and defines the tone of the new papacy.

As pointed out by Vatican-based religious writers, an encyclical is always scrutinized closely for its insight into a Pope's thoughts and plans, and the first such document is seen as a "charter" for a new papacy.

When the Filipino bishops met in promulgating their Jan. 29 pastoral letter, which castigated the "acts of evasion and obstruction of the truth" by the administration of President Macapagal-Arroyo in connection with the alleged rigging of the 2004 election results, they were probably sensitive to the political messages be-

ENCYCLICAL/A7

Deadly stampede also brings out best in people

By Luige A. del Puerto

SURGEONS AT THE RIZAL MEDical Center were having breakfast when the first victims of the deadly stampede at the PhilSports Arena (formerly Ultra) in Pasig City streamed in.

As ambulances brought in the injured and the dead, it became clear to the hospital staff that this was not going to be an ordinary Saturday.

Within minutes, a system meant to save as many number of lives as possible during an emergency was put into motion.

But the hospital would have been overwhelmed in coping with the sheer number of patients—if not for the many hands that quickly appeared, as if from nowhere.

For while disasters may bring out the worst in people, they can also show the best in them.

"That's what is good about us Filipinos. Nagdadamayan tayo (We care for each other)," said Arnel Sulliano, a hospital administrator.

Within the next hour, help poured in.

Pharmaceutical companies offered pain relievers and other medicines. Politicians gave away slippers. A nearby, well-known motel sent linens.

One politician who had heard that the hospital only had one X-ray machine sent one.

"Victoria Court sent 20 or 30 linens. They sent more today," said Sulliano. The popular motel is about 300 meters from the hospital.

"We were able to cope because many helped, and for that we are very thankful," Sulliano said.

The military and police also pitched in with their own doctors, nurses and ambulances.

As the number of victims mounted, the RMC staff, long accustomed to emergency situations, quickly adjusted and began the dogged work of checking patients and giving medications.

The hospital declared a Code

DEADLY/A20



AN OLD woman breaks down from the PhilSports Arena railings after disaster struck.

North Cotabato elderly dies with her dream

By DJ Yap

EVEN AT THE AGE OF 75, FELICIDAD Trinidad de la Vega didn't want to be a burden to her seven children. So she had taken a job as a nanny.

She had also gone to the PhilSports Arena (formerly Ultra) in Pasig City in the hope that she would win a few thousand pesos at the popular TV game show "Wowowee" that would raffle off huge cash prizes.

De la Vega had come to Manila to visit her children and had hoped luck would smile on her and she would share it with them before she returned to her North Cotabato home.

Instead, tragedy struck.

She was one of the scores of people who were trampled to death during Saturday's stampede at the PhilSports Arena.

Yesterday, De la Vega's family arrived at Arlington Memorial Chapel on Arane-

NORTH/A6



DREAM prizes offered by "Wowowee": House and lot, two tricycles, two taxis, one jeepney and P1 million in cash await winners of raffle draw scheduled during the popular game show's first anniversary celebration.

Second FrontPage

Cory, Erap hold meeting

By Edson C. Tandoc Jr. and TJ Burgonio

A BREWING ALLIANCE?

Speculations of an emerging alliance flew thick and fast yesterday after two former Presidents, who used to be on the opposite sides of the political fence, finally met and talk yesterday.



SENATE President Franklin Drilon, former President Corazon Aquino, former President Joseph Estrada, and actress Susan Roces pose after attending a Mass at the San Juan Hospital Chapel Sunday afternoon.

Corruption in health services bared

Ornamental plant growers get GMA fund

By TJ Burgonio

Meet the celebrity housemates of 'Pinoy Big Brother'

Cardinal Vidal set to retire



Customs speeds up shipment releases



North Cotabato elderly dies with her dream

Crush of people

Poor bore brunt

Shock and disbelief

Survivors

Puno takes over DILG; Andaya to DBM

Handcuffs deal

Temporary

Consolidate

Correction

DENR statement clearing Lafayette hit

The Daily Gospel

TEAMWORK AND HARD WORK WILL WORK!

PRISAA Private Schools Athletic Association goes to Pangasinan

Region I Hosts

Ilocos Norte - Ilocos Sur - La Union - Pangasinan I - Pangasinan II - Dagupan City - San Carlos City

NATIONAL GAMES 2006

February 5-11



H.E. GLORIA M. MACAPAGAL-ARROYO
President
Republic of the Philippines



Dr. EMMANUEL Y. ANGELES
National Chairman, PRISAA



We invite you all to come, see and ENJOY the games!

National President, PRISAA



Hon. JOSE C. DE VENECIA
Speaker, House of Representatives
Representative, 4th District



Governor, Province of Pangasinan

ATHLETIC PARADE

Monday, February 5, 2006
8:00 a.m.
Capitol Grounds
Lingayen, Pangasinan

OPENING CEREMONIES

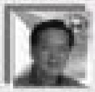
Monday, February 6, 2006
10:00 a.m.
Grandstand, Narciso Ramos Sports and Civic Center
Lingayen, Pangasinan
















PRISAA NATIONAL BOARD MEMBERS

PRISAA 2006 MAJOR SPONSORS

Encyclical reexamines role of state, Church







The WORLD

Iran still defiant after vote to report it to UN Council

TEHRAN—DEFIANT IRAN VOWED TO END SNAP UN NUCLEAR checks on Sunday, a day after the UN atomic watchdog voted to report the Islamic Republic to the Security Council over concerns about its nuclear program.

Captain abandoned doomed ferry

Bush spying finds few suspects—Post



US feminist pioneer Betty Friedan dies

Thaksin rejects quit calls, says protesters 'stupid'

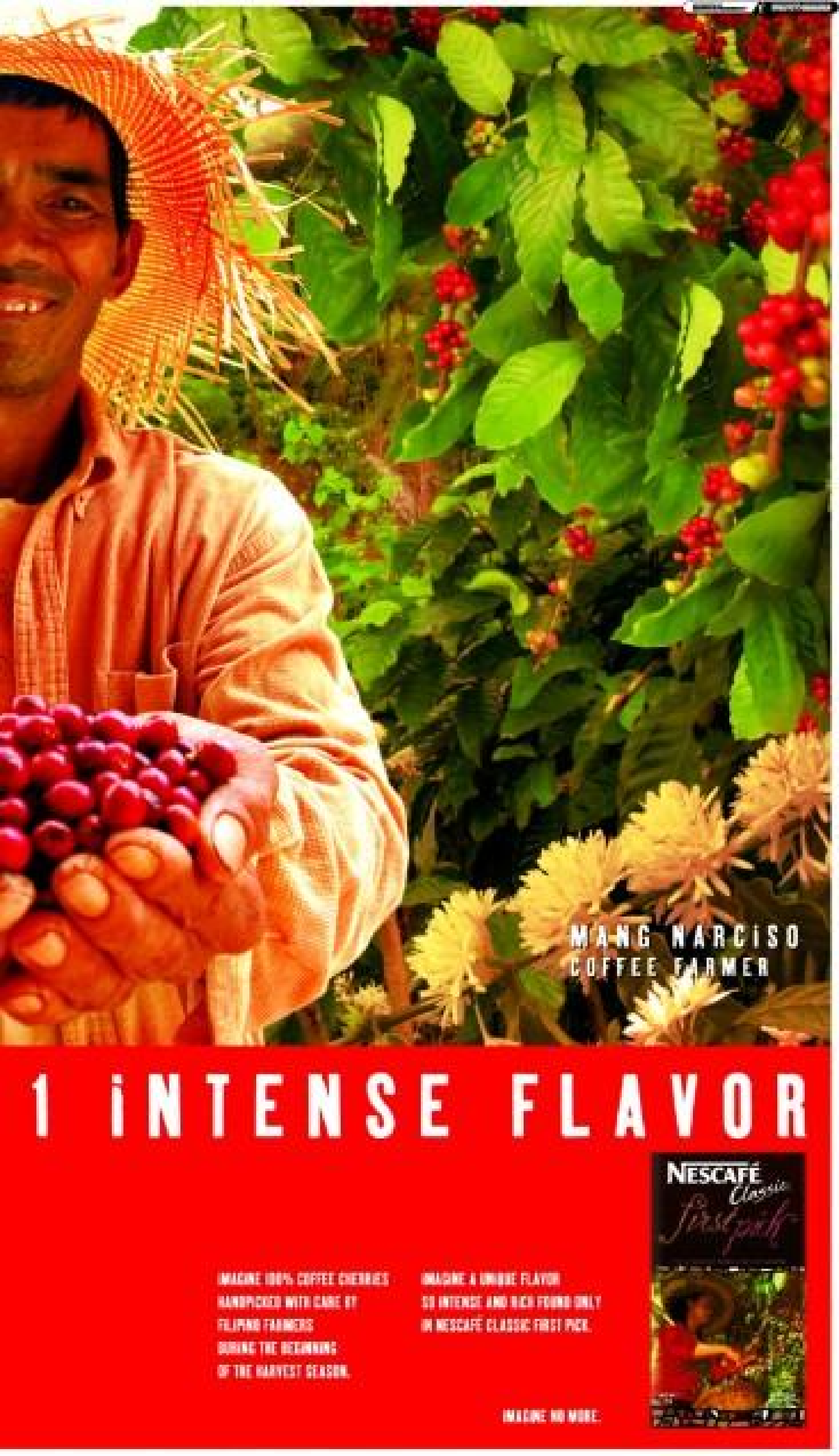


ANTI-THAKSIN protesters in Bangkok Feb. 4.



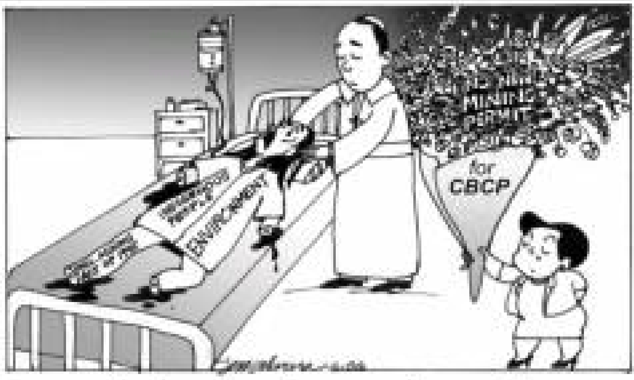
1 SPECiAL HARVEST

1 MOMENT 1 NESCAFÉ


MANG NARCISO
COFFEE FARMER
1 iNTENSE FLAVOR
IMAGINE 100% COFFEE CHERRIES
HANDPICKED WITH CARE BY
FILIPINO FARMERS
DURING THE BEGINNING
OF THE HARVEST SEASON.
IMAGINE A UNIQUE FLAVOR
SO INTENSE AND RICH FOUND ONLY
IN NESCAFÉ CLASSIC FIRST PICK.
IMAGINE NO MORE.
NESCAFÉ
Classic
first pick

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

OPINION



Media and the market

EDITORIAL

Stampede shows how desperately poor Pinoys are

AS I SEE IT

Neal H. Cruz

Tragedy

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

A parliamentary system?

Sounding Board



Fr. Joaquin G. Bernas, S.J.

Time to study the 'Separation Principle'

Commentary

Asuncion David Maramba

An integrated approach

The Long View



Manuel L. Quezon III

Fe Hidalgo's model classroom

Commentary

Maria "Ketchie" Lim-Ayuyao

MEDICard-Kodak Phils. Ltd. Signing



Perils to education

LETTERS

Nobody blamed for violating truce

DENR reforms hew to good governance

Across the NATION

Sex workers flock to Jolo for US troops

JOLO, SULU—LURED BY THE PROSPECTS OF EARNING MORE from American soldiers participating in the joint Philippine-US humanitarian mission here, commercial sex workers have arrived in this conservative Muslim province, officials said Thursday.

Vizcaya bishop seeks talks with execs, 'jueteng' workers



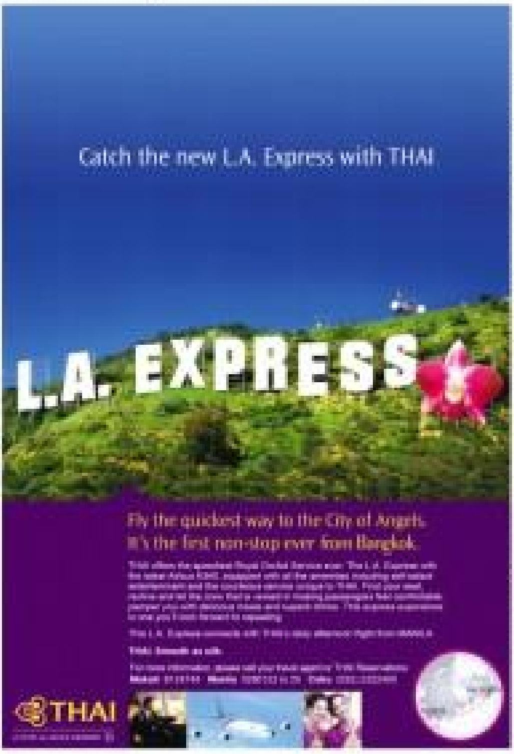








Boracay resort owners say oil spill no threat



Coal spill



Arrest witness' killers, cops told

ROUNDUP

Suspect in radioman's killing charged

Ex-mayor, guards survive attack

30 houses turned over



Security guard killed

Militant leader survives attack

8 cops relieved

Probers find lapses in security setup

FATALITY LIST

Arlington-Pasig

Arlington-Araneta



Hearing starts

Seating capacity

No coordination

Crowd control

Police not told

Security plans flexible

Willie and Claro

GMA pledge



Tragedy wake-up call . . .

Microfinance

Disheartening



Deadly stampede also brings out best in people

All hands on deck

Control needed

Handling disasters

Day ends in a smile

Opposition leader bugging Palace, Gonzales says

Well-disguised equipment

New plot

Measly loot for bank robbers in QC



BUDDING ARTISTS

Goat meat eaters warned

Iranian, Brit tourist lose Rolex watches to thieves

Cop: Jealousy led to shooting

Hospital renovation finished

Mandaluyong traffic rerouted

METRO

SUPERLOTTO 6/49

₱27,412,704.00

Beware of 'nameless' enforcers

SPORTS

Bulls repulse Kings, join Giants in Finals

By Jun Navarro

ONLY A PLAYER WITH A HEART of stone can take and make those shots.



Painters a win from sweep

By Musong R. Castillo

Primero sprints to 3rd place in Langkawi Tour

Suico kayoes rival; Tuñacao pulls thru

2nd Caddies' Open tourney this month

SEAG medalists just too tough to handle

By Jasmine W. Payo



Morales rejects Pacquiao conquest

BARE EYE

Recah Trinidad



Veteran, first-timer top Bohol Milo run



PENALES

Super Bowl: Slick offense battles blitz defense today

Carter helps Nets snap Heat streak

EAST RUTHERFORD, NEW JERSEY—Vince Carter had his second career triple-double with 28 points, 11 rebounds and 10 assists Saturday to lead the New Jersey Nets past the Miami Heat, 105-92.



CARTER

Morales

Woods beats Els in sudden death

CLEAN LIVING

Manolo R. Iñigo

BUSINESS

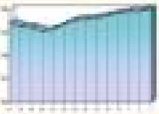
NTT to raise stake in PLDT to 20%

Group to acquire shares from the market

NIPPON TELEPHONE AND TELEGRAPH CORP. (NTT), the world's biggest telecom conglomerate, is raising its stake in Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. to 20 percent.

[illegible]

CURRENCIES

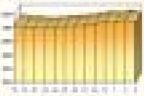


PESO-DOLLAR RATE

GOLD

STOCK MARKET

Oil price worries, politics seen to dampen stocks



[illegible]

WHAT'S INSIDE



Mike's cousins, GMA headaches

Surge in flour imports worries local millers

Gov't eyes cut in oil import tax

[illegible]



Unemployment to drop to 7.1% in '06, Neda says

Mike's cousins, GMA headaches

COCKTALES

Victor C. Agustin

[illegible]

NTT to raise . . .

[illegible]













Ayala Land to spend ₱10B in '06

By Elizabeth L. Sanchez

Slower but surprising

NO FREE LUNCH



Cielito F. Habito

The good news

Finance takes the lead

Confidence margin

Adjusted growth

Oil price ...

From page B1

Cocktales

From page B1

Ricky's P1B trick

Heard through the grapevine

Gov't eyes cut ...

From page B1

InfoTech



Budget-conscious Pinoys still buy gadgets despite new taxes

Electronic gadgets are still in demand despite the imposition of higher taxes





ONLINE games are increasingly becoming popular in the Philippines.

Filipinos spend 2 to 4 hours playing online games



Symptoms of system attacks

POWERTIPS

Tesda, Transco to put up skills center

By Abigail L. Ho

IN PREPARATION for its expansion, and with the hope of reducing costs as well, the National Transmission Corp. has teamed up with the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority to put up a Second transmission lineman's skills assessment center.

The assessment center is located at Transco's Bayombong substation in Nueva Vizcaya.

Following the signing of a memorandum of agreement between Tesda and Transco, the operators of the assessment center are mandated to conduct competency assessment, measuring skills, knowledge and attitude based on an occupational skills standard for a transmission lineman.

Transco president and chief executive Alan Ortiz said that although the state firm has, for years, been operating a training center within the Bayombong substation, this partnership would enable it to share resources with Tesda.

Under the agreement, Transco and Tesda will share their resources, including facilities and technical personnel, to train transmission linemen, assess and certify their skills.

Transco Luzon operations and maintenance vice president [illegible] cited the increasing length of transmission lines, as well as the growing number of ongoing and planned projects nationwide, called for more highly skilled and duly certified linemen.

Tesda provincial director [illegible] said the establishment of the training and skills assessment center would help ease the unemployment problem in the Cagayan Valley region, as well as enhance economic growth and promote technology acquisition and transfer in the area.

The establishment of the new center has, in fact, already yielded benefits for Transco in the form of P307,000 in savings for one small project.

Transco recently energized a new 10-megavolt-ampere transformer in its Santiago substation in Isabela, which improved voltage regulation along the Santiago-Cauayan-Ilagan 69-kilovolt transmission line.

With the new transformer, consumers of Isabela Electric Cooperative I and II in 24 municipalities, and three cities in Isabela, have been assured of reliable power service.

The P307,000 in savings came from Transco's utilization of its own maintenance and commission line personnel for the project in Cagayan Valley instead of hiring outsiders.

Wellex seeks strategic partner

Our meddlesome bishops again

QUESTIONS OF POLICIES

Hernando C. Generoso



Robinsons Land posts 34% jump in profit

Reorganizing operations, going into new ventures

By Elizabeth L. Sanchez



GATCHALIAN

iBank plans to raise ₱3B via tier 2 capital issuance

By Doris C. Dumlao

Oil company putting up autogas stations

By Abigail L. Ho



YOU ARE WHAT YOU EAT

'05 earnings from IT services hit ₱1.8B

RP food producers want access to EU market anew

Debt-to-GDP ratio seen to hit 74%

RP debt standing expected to improve over the next 5 years

Globe's non-stop offer turns into a permanent fixture

ABE Int'l Business College awarded best brand innovator

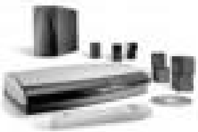
Omega-3 fatty acids recommended for diabetics, high-risk heart patients



LANDISAN, DEPED ORIENTATION ON ORAL CARE

ProductFILES

Home theater system from Bose

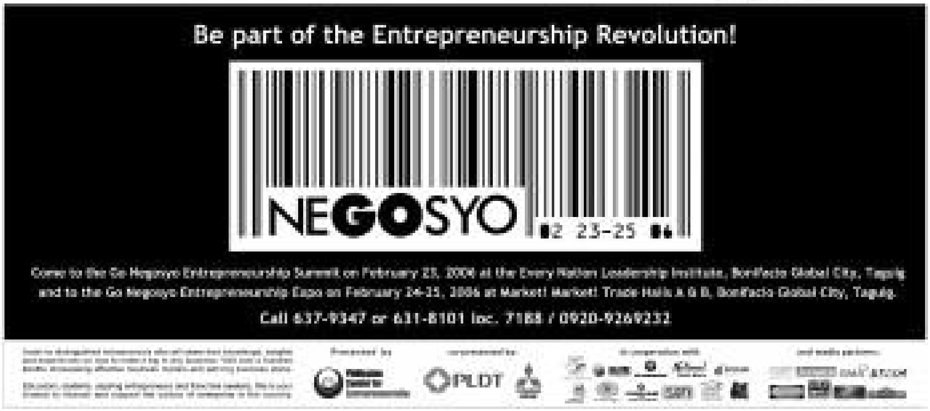


OBITUARIES



Surge in flour imports worries local millers

Globe proposes 83% cut in access charges





Bencab makes his mark in Singapore





"THE MEETING"











Everyday urban heritage still lives in Phnom Penh

PRIDE OF PLACE



Augusto F. Villalon



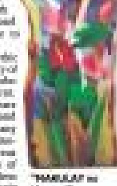
Ode to woman



"TAPUSI"



"LUALHATI"



Visual Arts

D'Bayan at Crucible

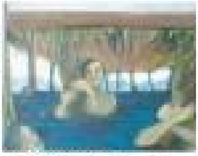
Raquepo at MagNet



Jimenez at West

Escora at Alliance Française

Lee at Finale



Pettyjohns at Glorietta



Larrazas at Asia Art



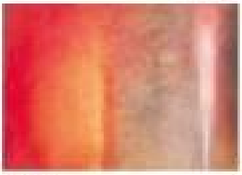
Nemiranda at Renaissance

Perez et al at Heritage

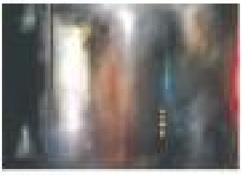
Art show by cancer kids



Bencab . . .



"RED Earth"



"COSMIC"



"VERTICAL Horizon"

Engineer of intimate landscapes

Fred Ramirez's abstracts are nonrepresentational art with a naturalistic bent



"SUN Rising"

By Lito B. Zulueta

Clash of horizons



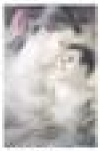
"RED Earth"

Language pedagogy seminar

UST announces writers workshop

Lecture on Anita Magsaysay-Ho

Gabuco's obsessive figuration



"MAG-INA"

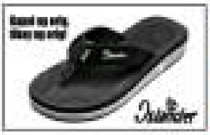


"BANGA"



"SI TATANG"

E-mail author at gdeveraeulab@yahoo.com



LifeStyle



100 years of Manila's German Club

About 600 German nationals and their friends are expected to attend the historic occasion

By Anna A. Jardiniano

AN IMPRESSIVELY DESIGNED scenic reminiscent of the old and new Germany will mark the grand centennial celebration of the German Club Manila on Feb. 9 at the Rizal Ballroom of the Makati Shangri-La Hotel.

Home away from home

"The club began as a social club, a home away from home for homesick Germans, and it eventually grew like a tree," says the German Club president, Thomas Franz. "It is not only part of German history but Philippine history as well, especially Manila."

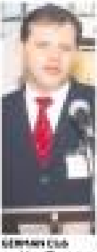








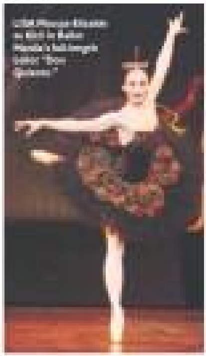
100 years of Manila's German Club





Bolipata performs Bartok





Ballet Manila stages 'Don Quixote'

[illegible]



A SCENE from Don Quixote



Short plays from Peta

[illegible]

'ZsaZsa Zaturnnah,' the musical

[illegible]



'Midsummer Night's Dream,' picnic-style

[illegible]

Theater of eternal spring

Dulaang Sibol marks its 50th year with a spry, sparkling restaging of 'Ibong Adarna'



DULAANG Sibol members with their mentor-director, Onofre Pagsanghan (inset, left)

Strengths

Gods and monsters

